

WHAT'S *New*



in the Metropolitan Police Department

*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, October 13, 2006

DC CELEBRATES CRIME PREVENTION MONTH WITH LAUNCH OF NEW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MANUAL

To commemorate National Crime Prevention Month in DC, police and community leaders are re-focusing on Neighborhood Watch as a strategy to both combat crime and make communities better prepared for emergencies. In support of these efforts, the MPDC, in conjunction with the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), has launched a new Neighborhood Watch manual and other resources to assist DC communities in creating, expanding and sustaining Neighborhood Watch programs. The MPDC's "Organizing and Sustaining a Neighborhood Watch" manual, as well as other tools and resources from the NCPC, were introduced to the community this past week. "Our experience shows that less crime is no accident," said Al Lenhardt, NCPC President and CEO. "When law enforcement and community residents work together to develop and implement prevention solutions to crime problems, we feel safer and we are safer. Neighborhood Watch is one of the very best examples of police-community partnerships," he added. Popular for the past three decades, Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention strategy that focuses on looking out for the personal safety and property of neighbors in an organized and sustained manner. More recently, Neighborhood Watch has become an important component of emergency preparedness as well. "Today, Neighborhood Watch is not only a mechanism for the community to help combat — and, ultimately, prevent — crime. Neighborhood Watch is also a vital resource for ensuring that our communities are organized and prepared in case of a terrorist attack or natural disaster," said Chief Ramsey. In addition to distributing its new manual, the MPDC is offering training and technical assistance to communities interested in creating or expanding Neighborhood Watch efforts.

① For more information, and to view the manual online, visit:
www.mpd.cdc.gov/watch

① For more information on the MPDC's "Policing for Prevention" strategy, including ways for residents to get involved, go to:
<http://mpdc.dcc.gov/pfp>

MPDC SWEARS IN 30 NEW SERGEANTS

Front-line supervision in neighborhood patrols is getting a boost, thanks to the promotion this past week of 30 new sergeants. The sergeants are among the top scorers in the most recent promotional exam offered to police officers and detectives. Following an intensive, two-week course of instruction, the new sergeants were sworn in by Chief Ramsey during a ceremony at the MPDC's Maurice T. Turner Jr., Institute of Police Science in Southwest. "Our Department is in real need of additional leadership at the rank of sergeant, and I know that each of you is now ready to help fill that need and provide that leadership," Ramsey told the promotees. He said the promotion to sergeant marks a dramatic shift in both responsibility and perspective, as members moves from being front-line employees to front-line supervisors, responsible not only for their own actions, but also the actions of the officers they lead. "Each of you has just come from the very rank you are about to supervise and lead. Probably better than anyone else, you know and understand what it takes for our police officers to get the job done," Ramsey said. The new sergeants are being assigned to operational units throughout the city.

SIX OFFICERS WHO SAVED LIFE OF SUICIDAL MAN ARE AMONG OCTOBER'S "CHAMPS"

Earlier this year, Third District Officer Michael Bowman tried to initiate contact with a man in the 600 block of Morton Street, NW, to determine if he had a legitimate cause to be in the Park Morton housing complex. As the officer approached, the subject fled on foot. Officer Bowman, along with Officer Robert Owen, soon located the man, and a foot pursuit ensued, with 3D Officers Doran Gunnells, Jose Gonzalez-Rivera, James Paige and Anthony Graham responding to assist. During the pursuit, Officer Bowman saw the subject climb up the rear of a home in the 500 block of Park Road, NW. Several moments later, he emerged from the residence with a large knife to his throat, yelling "kill me, kill me." Officer Owen ordered the subject to drop the knife, while maintaining a safe distance from the subject. As the subject fled the location with the knife still to his throat, the assisting officers set up a perimeter around him and repeatedly ordered him to drop the knife. The subject then began to cut across the right side of his neck with the back edge of the knife, yelling "you'll have to kill me." Recognizing that immediate steps were needed to save the man's life, Officers Bowman, Gonzalez-Rivera, and Owen delivered a series of short bursts of OC Spray to the subject's face, while Officer Gunnells struck the subject's upper right arm with his ASP baton in an attempt to get him to release the knife. The subject dropped the knife and fell to his knees. The officers immediately secured him and arranged for transport to an area hospital. For their coordinated teamwork in helping to save the life of a suicidal man, the six officers were honored during the October CHAMPS awards luncheon. They were among 14 "officers of the month" who were recognized.

FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTH, AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING RATE IN DC IS LESS THAN 2 PERCENT

For the second month in a row, the rate of "aggressive speeding" on roadways with photo radar cameras was less than 2 percent during September 2006. More than 1.9 million vehicles passed through enforcement zones monitored by the MPDC's stationary and mobile photo radar cameras last month, but only about 35,000 were found to be speeding aggressively. That means that just 1.8 percent of all vehicles were traveling above the threshold speed established for the program. The September rate is just slightly higher than the record low rate of 1.7 percent, which was recorded in August 2006. And whereas almost 1 in 3 motorists were found to be speeding aggressively at the beginning of the photo radar program in July 2001, the number plummeted to about 1 in 55 motorists speeding aggressively during September 2006. Average speeds of all vehicles traveling on DC roadways with photo radar continue to be substantially lower today than they were when the program began. On streets with a 25-mph speed limit, for example, the average speed of all vehicles monitored by photo radar was 28.2 mph in September 2006, down from 35.5 mph in July 2001.

NEWS & NOTES

Next of Kin Meeting for Survivors of Homicide Victims. The MPDC's Violent Crimes Branch invites the immediate family members of victims in open homicide cases that occurred prior to 2002 to a special personal meeting with a homicide detective. The meetings will take place on November 15, from 3-8 pm, at the MPDC's training academy, 4665 Blue Plains Drive, SW. Appointments are required. Contact the MPDC's Family Liaison Specialist Unit, at (202) 645-6363, by Monday, November 6.

- ① Read about all of their heroics at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/champs>
- ① CHAMPS, which stands for Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service, is a monthly awards program sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC, in appreciation and support of the MPDC's service to the community. This month's luncheon was held October 4 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Northwest.

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- ① Read all of the latest data on photo radar at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,548110,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav_131886,1,asp
 - ① Meanwhile, red-light running at the 49 DC intersections equipped with traffic safety cameras has declined nearly 69 percent over the course of the program. Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547886,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,1,asp

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 10/13/06
◆ Total: 140
◆ 2005: 150
◆ % Change: -6.7%
◆ Closure Rate: 53.6% (75 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 10/7/06
◆ Total: 947
◆ Weapons: 24
◆ Robbery: 5
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 13
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 26
◆ Narcotics: 175

Juvenile Activity week end. 10/7/06
◆ Total Arrests: 53
◆ Robbery: 1
◆ Weapons: 3
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 4
◆ Curfew Violators: 181

Firearm Recoveries as of 10/11/06
◆ October: 210
◆ 2006 Total: 2,137

Traffic Fatalities as of 10/13/06
◆ 2006: 34
◆ 2005: 37
◆ % Change: -8.1%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to KEVIN MORISON, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crimereports.com.

mpdc.dc.gov